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In re Application of

Breed et al.

Application Number

08/239,978

Filed

5/9/94

Paper No.

21

I hereby request access under 37 CFR 1.14(a)(1)(iv) to the application file record of the above-identified ABANDONED application, which is identified in, or to which a benefit is claimed, in the following document (as shown in the attachment):

United States Patent Application Publication No. _____, page, _____ line _____.

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United States Patent [19]

Breed et al.

[11] Patent Number: **5,901,978**[45] Date of Patent: ***May 11, 1999**

[54] **METHOD AND APPARATUS FOR
DETECTING THE PRESENCE OF A CHILD
SEAT**

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[*] Notice: This patent is subject to a terminal dis-
claimer.

[21] Appl. No.: **09/084,641**

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Related U.S. Application Data

[63] Continuation-in-part of application No. 09/047,704, Mar.
25, 1998, which is a continuation-in-part of application No.
08/640,068, Apr. 30, 1996, Pat. No. 5,829,782, which is a
continuation of application No. 08/239,978, May 9, 1994,
abandoned.

[51] Int. Cl.⁶ **B60R 21/32**

[52] U.S. Cl. **280/735; 180/272; 342/72;**
701/45

[58] Field of Search 280/735, 734;
180/272; 342/72, 70; 701/45, 49

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[57] **ABSTRACT**

Method and system for detecting the presence of the child seat on a seat in which information about contents of the seat is obtained and a signal is generated based on any contents of the seat, a different signal being generated for different contents of the seat when such contents are present on the seat. The signal is analyzed in order to determine whether the contents of the seat include a child seat, and in a preferred embodiment, a child seat in a rear-facing orientation. Another system within the vehicle may be affected or controlled based on the determination of whether a child seat is present on the seat. The analysis of the signal is preferably by pattern recognition techniques that can recognize and thus identify the contents of the seat.

21 Claims, 22 Drawing Sheets